Exhibit 2: Letters of Support

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Region
777 Sonoma Ave., Room 325
Santa Rosa, CA 95404-6528

May 4, 2005

In Response Reply To:
151422SWR02SR6251:JTJ

Mr. Doug Bosco
Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, California 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is in full support of the Coastal Conservancy grant that would provide funding for implementation of the Caspar Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project in the Jackson Demonstration State Forest near Fort Bragg, Mendocino County, California. With a vote by the Coastal Conservancy Board on May 18, 2005, the approval of this grant will provide the needed funding for this long awaited beneficial project.

The Caspar Creek watershed supports Central California Coast coho salmon and Northern California steelhead which are both listed as threatened pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The proposed project includes deconstruction of the existing fish ladders and fish passage improvements at both the South Fork Caspar (SFC) Creek and North Fork Caspar (NFC) Creek monitoring stations. The existing fish ladders will be replaced with new ladder structures within a more natural stream channel using stored sediments and native vegetation. This project is unique in that it has the design limitation of any new fish passage structure not affecting the integrity of hydrologic data collected by United States Forest Service (USFS) Redwood Sciences Lab and the California Department of Forestry (CDF).

This proposed fish passage project would greatly improve access to over 3.5 miles of upstream spawning and rearing habitat. Surveys conducted by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) in the late 1990s and in 2001, and the May 2003 NMFS's biological opinion, have identified the fish ladders as partial barriers to anadromous salmonid passage, especially adult coho salmon, and juvenile coho salmon and steelhead. The existing ladders are constructed of wood and are in poor structural condition. In addition, during summer and early fall the entire discharge in both SFC and NFC leaks through gaps in the ladders, trapping juvenile fish upstream until the fall rains. Fish passage improvement projects in coho salmon streams are a high priority for NMFS and CDFG recovery efforts.

NMFS staff has been working cooperatively with the USFS, CDF, and CDFG for the last five years on the concept and development of this fish passage project. In addition, these agencies have been working with the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program and Michael Bowen from the Coastal Conservancy for the last couple of years on the design, funding and implementation of the project. NMFS believes the Caspar Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project will provide significant benefits to ESA-listed salmonids by improving passage conditions for both adult and juvenile salmonids. Improved fish passage conditions at both NFC and SFC are anticipated to increase the survival and distribution of both coho salmon and steelhead in the Caspar Creek watershed. NMFS appreciates the involvement of the Coastal Conservancy, and urges the Conservancy to support the funding request that will allow the implementation of the Caspar Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project.

If you have any questions or would like additional information about our support for this project, please contact Mr. Jeffrey Jahn at (707) 575-6097.

Sincerely,

Dick Butler
Acting Santa Rosa Area Office Supervisor
Protected Resources Division

cc: Michael Bowen, Coastal Conservancy, Oakland

State of California

M e m o r a n d u m

To: Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530
Attention Michael Bowen

Date: May 10, 2005

From : Robert W. Floerke, Regional Manager *(Original signed by Rick Parmer)*
Department of Fish and Game - Central Coast Region, Post Office Box 47, Yountville, California 94599

Subject : Support for the Coastal Conservancy Grant for the Caspar Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project

The Central Coast Region of the California Department of Fish and Game wishes to express its support for the Coastal Conservancy grant that would help implement the Caspar Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project. With a vote by the Coastal Conservancy Board on May 18, 2005, the approval of this grant will complete the funding for this long awaited and much needed project.

The Caspar Creek watershed supports populations of Central California Coast coho salmon and Northern California steelhead which are both listed as threatened Evolutionarily Significant Units pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act. The proposed project, replacing the existing fish ladders and restoring a more natural stream habitat below the concrete weir dams at both the South and North Fork monitoring stations (SFC and NFC, respectively) would enhance access to approximately 3.54 miles of upstream spawning and rearing habitat. Surveys conducted by the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) in 2001 identified the fish ladders as partial barriers to anadromous salmonid passage, particularly juveniles. The existing ladders are constructed of wood and are in poor structural condition. In addition, during summer and early fall the entire discharge in both SFC and NFC leaks through gaps in the ladders, trapping juvenile fish upstream until the fall rains. Fish passage projects on coho streams are listed as a high priority in DFG's *Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon,* February 2004.

The proposed project includes removing the existing fish ladders at both sites. In their place, natural channels would be created using stored sediments and native vegetation and new ladder structures would be installed. This project is unique in that it has the design limitation that any new fish passage structure can not affect the integrity of hydrologic data collected by U. S. Forest Service (USFS) Redwood Sciences Lab and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF). The new ladders will be designed so that flow measurements for the watershed studies will not be disrupted.

Your staff and those in CDF, NOAA Fisheries, the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program, the USFS Redwood Sciences Lab, and DFG have worked closely to plan for and implement this project. We believe the project benefits to anadromous salmonids will be significant. The Central Coast Region of DFG urges the Coastal Conservancy to support the Caspar Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project funding request.

cc: Michael Bowen
Coastal Conservancy
mbowen@scc.ca.gov

Christine Jordan
Mark Lancaster
5 Counties Salmonid Conservation Program
Migration Barriers
Trinity County Planning Department
cjordan@trinitycounty.org
mlancaster@trinitycounty.org